

**WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022 | 6:00 P.M.**

APPROVED JUNE 16, 2022

President James called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Mickey Archambault, Christina Codo, Warren James, Cynthia Rapp, Colleen Root

Commissioners Absent: Eric Lussen, David Seaman

Staff Present: John Peterson, Executive Director; Kyle Berg, Superintendent of Recreation; Costa Kutulas, Director of Parks and Maintenance; Jim Crocker, Superintendent of Finance; Molly Krohe, Marketing Brand Manager; Libby Baker, Office Associate; Matt McCann, Golf Course Superintendent; Matt Johnson, Golf Manager; Mike Slezak, Asst. Course Supt.; Morgan Harty, The Lakota Group

Audience Present: Kofi Anaman, Teresa Claybrook, Jake Claybrook, Steve Jambor, Connie Henry, Elizabeth Lane, Marie DeLean, Sally Tomlinson, Allen Welch, Jim Dahl

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Commissioner announced Agenda item 4B will precede item 4A.

COMMUNICATIONS

Executive Director Peterson commented on the thank you note received from the District 36 School Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Dog Beach/Dog Park Advisory Committee Presentation

Commissioner Archambault introduced committee members Elizabeth Lane, Sally Tomlinson, Marie DeLean, Allen Welch and Jim Dahl and reviewed the objectives of the committee. Morgan Harty of The Lakota Group presented a design proposal and responded to questions.

Commissioner James thanked the committee for all their work and complimented the design. He expressed concern with water level fluctuations and suggested a more robust barrier to separate the dog use area from the public beach, and to help dissipate wave energy.

Commissioner Archambault stated the design as proposed would cost approximately \$215k.

Committee member Sally Tomlinson spoke about the importance of communicating the plan to the community. She suggested the use of a QR code posted at the current dog beach and around town to link to information about the plan. Ms. Tomlinson explained the committee identified potential questions that may be asked and developed a list of responses. The board was asked to review the FAQ's and provide feedback.

Commissioner Archambault stated the timing of this project should to be addressed as it relates to the Village's pier project and the construction at Elder + Centennial. He noted the committee would like to identify a temporary location because they are concerned construction will begin on Elder + Centennial before the new dog beach is completed. Commissioner Archambault also noted the committee is ready for the public engagement process and would like to begin in June.

Director Kutulas addressed the construction timeline for Elder + Centennial noting Centennial will likely be available through October-November. Commissioner James expressed concern with having a temporary location and the ability to separate off-leash dogs from unaware beach users.

Committee member Jim Dahl recognized the efforts of the committee and thanked the board for their support.

The board concurred to move forward with the public engagement process. Commissioner Root noted some members of the community have learned Tower Road Beach is a proposed location and suggested it would be best to begin the process in early June.

*The board meeting packet was updated on the website to include The Lakota Group presentation.

Kofi Anaman, Director and Founder of Future Builder Scouts

Commissioner James introduced Kofi Anaman, Director and Founder of Future Builder Scouts, an after school enrichment program in Ghana, West Africa. He explained the Future Builder Scouts program and how the Winnetka Boy Scouts became involved. Commissioner James introduced Jake Claybrook from Boy Scout Troop 18 whose Eagle Scout project is to build a playground for the Future Builder Scouts. At a previous meeting Jake Claybrook requested, and was approved for a donation from the Park District of the used Nick Corwin playground equipment. The full Eagle Scout project includes the deconstruction, packaging, and shipping of the equipment to Ghana.

*The board meeting packet was updated on the website to include the Future Builder Scouts

presentation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nick Corwin Playground Renovation Project

A Board Summary describing the project was distributed.

Director Kutulas reviewed the history of Nick Corwin Park, which is scheduled for replacement. He explained the equipment is worn and the playground no longer meets current safety standards. He reviewed the proposed playground design, to include additional curbing and landscaping, and the associated costs. Director Kutulas reviewed designs for proposed future park improvements to include a shade shelter, paver bricks, and additional landscaping. The construction timeline was reviewed. Formal approval will be requested at the May 26, 2022 regular board meeting. If approved, the playground would be completed by August, keeping in line with AYSO's schedule.

At the request of Commissioner Archambault, the board gave Director Kutulas verbal approval to move forward to lock in the quoted price.

Commissioner Rapp recognized Director Kutulas and Jake Claybrook for their work to see this project completed.

*The board meeting packet was updated on the website to include the Board Summary and playground presentation.

Village of Winnetka Stormwater Project Review

A Board Summary and spreadsheet of the bid tabulations were distributed and discussed to inform and prepare the board for a formal recommendation May 26, 2022, or sooner.

Director Kutulas reported the Village received three bids to complete the construction. The bid results are still under review by the Village. Director Kutulas reviewed the bid results and specific projects, as well as costs associated with the identified alternate projects. He noted a discussion might be necessary with the Village about the percentages allocated to the shared based bids, based on the intergovernmental agreement.

Director Kutulas further noted payouts for the project would not begin until 2023.

*The board meeting packet was updated on the website to include the Board Summary and bid tabulation spreadsheet.

Golf Course Construction Management

Director Peterson reported he and Commissioner Codo spoke with KemperSports to further discuss their proposal. He noted KemperSports would not adjust their pricing but offered assistance with the sale of the current gas golf carts, the purchase of a new lithium fleet, and improvements to the pro shop.

Director Peterson also reported Troon is finalizing their proposal, and GolfVisions has not provided a response.

Director Kutulas informed the board of the lead-time necessary to obtain a transformer to support the golf cart charging ability, and the significant costs associated to provide power.

Elder + Centennial Update

Director Peterson reported the two open house sessions were well attended. Comments and feedback have been received; the results will be compiled and distributed to the board.

Director Kutulas reported the permit application is still in the public comment phase. An archaeological phase one survey is to be completed as required. A survey for 261 Sheridan will also be executed and paid for by the owner.

Responses have been prepared and are under review based on comments received from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

MATTERS FROM THE DIRECTOR

None

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

District 36 – Commissioner Rapp reported Kelly Tess has been named the new superintendent. A search is underway for her replacement.

Environmental & Forestry Commission – Commissioner Rapp reported work continues on the sustainability pillars.

Winnetka Parks Foundation – Executive Director Peterson reported a meeting was held May 11. Officers have been identified and the transfer of leadership responsibilities is ongoing; additional board members are still needed.

STAFF REPORTS

Molly Krohe, Marketing Brand Manager – reported summer marketing is underway. The fall brochure will be released online at the end of July; photo and video content is being gathered for a campaign to promote health and wellness.

Costa Kutulas, Director of Parks and Maintenance – reported staff is collaborating with the Village on the Farmer’s Market at the new Station Park site. Dredging was completed at Lloyd and the docks were installed. The estimated cost for dredging is \$10-15k. Several compliments have been received regarding the condition of the athletic fields.

Commissioner James added the board should revisit the proposed sand management agreement between the Village, park district and private property owners.

John Peterson, Executive Director – regarding the paddle court construction - staff continues to work with the two cell tower companies to resolve the agreements; legal counsel is reviewing the construction documents to insure the Park District does not incur any out of pocket expenses related to the additional of two paddle courts.

Jim Crocker, Superintendent of Finance – reported the required annual filings for the Foundation are being completed. Revenue is up compared to last year at this time and expenses are down. Cook County is delayed, possibly six months, in disbursing property taxes to all entities.

The board discussed the delay and the impact it will have on the budget. A cash flow analysis was requested. The liaisons will contact their counterparts to learn how other agencies are responding. The audit will be presented to the board in June.

Executive Director Peterson reported on behalf of Superintendent Berg who is working diligently with staff to fill all open staff positions.

Manager Krohe suggested the link to learn more about the dog beach be included on the lakefront plan.

Libby Baker, Office Associate Baker - noted the limited availability of the Community Room during the summer. Commissioners Root and Archambault agreed Tower Road Beach would be a good location to host public engagement sessions for the dog beach. Work on the policy manual has been set aside and will resume soon.

Commissioner Rapp inquired about the status of communications about the Memorial Day Parade. Manager Krohe explained the various communication pieces being developed and distributed. Additional communications will be released the week of May 16.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Archambault made a motion to go into closed session at 8:00 p.m., pursuant to Sections 2(c)(1), (5) and (6) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the appointment,

employment, compensation, performance, or dismissal of specific employees; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. Commissioner Rapp seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Rapp, Root

Nays: None

Motion carried

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Archambault made a motion at 8:36 p.m. to return to open session. Commissioner Rapp seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Rapp, Root

Nays: None

Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Archambault made a motion at 8:36 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Codo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: Archambault, Codo, James, Rapp, Root

Nays: None

Motion carried

John Peterson, Board Secretary

Date Approved